

CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

1. A bracket for an airbag subassembly comprising:
a base formed from a material;
at least two retention members extending from said base, said retention members formed integral with and from the same material as said base, said retention members including a surface formed to define a cavity extending approximately perpendicular to said base.
2. The bracket of claim 1 wherein said base defines an inflator opening between said retention members.
3. The bracket of claim 1 wherein said surface is an arcuate surface.
4. The bracket of claim 3 wherein said retention members each include an insertion point and a lip, said insertion point extending a greater distance from base than said lip.
5. The bracket of claim 3 wherein said retention members further define a retention cavity.
6. The bracket of claim 5 wherein said retention members define a first engagement surface and a second engagement surface within said retention cavity.

7. The bracket of claim 6 wherein said cavity extending from said base is at least partially located between said first and second engagement surfaces.

8. The bracket of claim 1 wherein said surface includes a first leg and a second leg angled relative to said first leg and a center leg disposed between said first and second legs.

9. The bracket of claim 8 wherein said legs define a retention cavity and wherein said first leg defines a first engagement surface within said retention cavity and said second leg defines a second engagement surface within said retention cavity.

10. An airbag subassembly comprising:
a support structure having at least two apertures; and
a bracket having a base formed from a material and at least two retention members extending from said base, said retention members formed integral with and from the same material as said base, said retention members including a surface formed to define a cavity extending approximately perpendicular to said base, said retention members adapted to extend through said apertures in said support structure.

11. The airbag subassembly of claim 10 further including a retention mechanism coupled to said support structure to engage said retention members to couple said bracket to said support structure.

12. The airbag subassembly of claim 11 wherein said retention members define a retention cavity, and wherein said retention mechanism is disposable into said retention cavity.

13. The airbag subassembly of claim 12 wherein said retention members define a first engagement surface and a second engagement surface within said retention cavity.

14. The airbag subassembly of claim 12 wherein said retention mechanism includes an engaged position and said retention mechanism engages said first and second engagement surfaces in said engaged position.

15. The airbag subassembly of claim 14 wherein said retention mechanism includes a rest position, and said retention members include an insertion point, a contact surface and a lip between said contact surface and said insertion point and wherein said insertion point, said lip and said contact surface displace said retention mechanism from said rest position as said retention members are inserted into said aperture, until said retention mechanism becomes disposed in said retention cavity in said engaged position.

16. The airbag subassembly of claim 12 wherein said retention mechanism partially obstructs said apertures in said rest position.

17. The airbag subassembly of claim 10 wherein said bracket is a sealing plate.

18. The airbag subassembly of claim 17 further including a housing between said sealing plate and said support structure, said housing defining at least two pin receivers to allow said retention members to pass through said housing and into said apertures on said support structure.

19. The airbag subassembly of claim 10 wherein said bracket is a housing.

20. The airbag subassembly of claim 10 wherein said bracket is a retainer ring.

21. The airbag subassembly of claim 10 wherein said bracket is a stamped metal bracket with said retention members being stamped integral with said base.

22. The airbag subassembly of claim 21 wherein said bracket defines an inflator opening between said retention members.

23. The airbag subassembly of claim 22 wherein said support structure is a horn bracket.

24. The airbag subassembly of claim 22 wherein said support structure is a steering wheel armature.

25. The airbag subassembly of claim 23 further including a horn bracket between said support structure and said bracket, said horn bracket defining at least two pin receivers for allowing passage of said retention members to said apertures.

26. The airbag subassembly of claim 10 wherein said support structure is a steering wheel armature and said bracket is a horn bracket.

27. The airbag subassembly of claim 10 wherein said retention members include at least three contact areas for engaging said apertures.

28. A method of forming a bracket for an airbag subassembly for retaining an airbag module on a support structure, said method comprising the steps of:

stamping a metal sheet to define an opening and stamped retention members extending into said opening; and

bending said stamped retention members to form retention members for coupling said metal sheet to the support structure.

29. The method of claim 28 wherein said step of stamping said metal sheets defines a retention cavity in said stamped retention members.

30. The method of claim 28 wherein said step of bending said stamped retention members includes the step of raising said stamped retention members to be approximately perpendicular to said metal sheet and curling said stamped retention members to form a surface defining a cavity extending perpendicular to said metal sheet.

31. The method of claim 28 wherein said step of bending said stamped retention members includes the step of curling said stamped retention members to form shaped retention members.

32. The method of claim 31 wherein said step of bending said stamped retention members includes the step of raising said shaped retention members to be approximately perpendicular to said metal sheet after said step of curling said stamped retention members.